

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00

FRB-03 SR-02 ORM-01 ACDA-05 EURE-00 /109 W

----- 117766

P R 100900Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2094

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 478

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3963

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA

1. FOREIGN OFFICE UNDER SECRETARY ROVIRA TOLD ME JUNE 9 THAT THE GOS HAD DIRECTLY INVITED REPRESENTATIVES FROM MOROCCO, ALGERIA AND MAURETANIA TO MEET IN MADRID JUNE 9 TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF SPANISH SAHARA. IT HAD NOT COME AS A SURPRISE TO GOS THAT NOBODY HAD SHOWN UP.

2. ROVIRA SAID GOS WOULD MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO CONVOKE A QUADRIPARTITE MEETING FOR THE LATTER PART OF JUNE. IF THIS MEETING ALSO DID NOT TAKE PLACE, THEN SPAIN WOULD GO TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND REQUEST THAT BODY TO ORGANIZE SUCH A MEETING UNDER ITS AUSPICES.

3. WHEN I INQUIRED AS TO WHY ALGERIA AT LEAST HAD NOT GONE THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF SHOWING UP, ROVIRA SAID ALGERIA WAS PLAYING A "SMART GAME" AND WAS OBVIOUSLY WORKING WITH F.  
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POLISARIO TO ADVANCE ALGERIA'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS SAHARA.

4. SPEAKING OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S VISIT HERE JUNE 11, ROVIRA SAID THAT THIS VISIT HAD BEEN PLANNED A LONG TIME AGO BY LOPEZ RODO AND THAT THE SAHARA QUESTION HAD NOT BEEN ITS SUBJECT. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE MOROCCANS, ALGERIANS AND MAURITANIANS HAD GOT INTO THE ACT AND NOW WALDHEIM WILL VISIT THOSE COUNTRIES BEFORE COMING HERE. ROVIRA THOUGHT THAT THE SPANISH WOULD GAIN BY HAVING WALDHEIM HERE LAST, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT SURE TO WHAT EXTENT WALDHEIM COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE.

5. ROVIRA REMARKED THAT WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE ICJ CASE, IT WAS NOW LARGELY IRRELEVANT AS IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE PROGRESS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE IN SETTING THE STAGE FOR SPANISH DEPARTURE FROM THE SAHARA. HE PERSONALLY FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY THAT SPAIN COULD LEAVE THE SAHARA BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL CONCERNS AT THE PRESENT TIME WAS THE SAFE EVACUATION OF THE 10,000 SPANIARDS WHO NOW LIVE IN THE SAHARA IN ONE CAPACITY OR ANOTHER. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE LAST THING SPAIN WANTED TO DO WAS TO BECOME ENGAGED IN A "COLONIAL WAR" AND, THEREFORE, THE SOONER SPAIN GOT OUT, THE BETTER. ANYTHING THE US COULD DO TO KEEP THE SITUATION CALM IN THE MEANTIME WOULD BE HELPFUL.

6. WITH RESPECT TO THE UN VISITING MISSION, ROVIRA BELIEVED THAT THEY COULD ONLY GO BACK TO NEW YORK TOTALLY CONFUSED, GIVEN THE CONFLICTING VERSIONS AND PRESSURES WHICH THEY ENCOUNTERED ON THEIR TRAVELS. HE APPEARED TO DISMISS AS NOT VERY IMPORTANT THE FINDINGS WHICH THIS GROUP WOULD MAKE. HE CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE THIS QUESTION WOULD BE THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, INCLUDING EVENTUALLY THE SAHARANS.

7. I ASKED ROVIRA ABOUT THE REPORT IN JUNE 9 PRESS THAT SPANISH FORCES IN THE SAHARA HAD CAPTURED A MOROCCAN ARMY UNIT. HE SAID HE WAS NOT CERTAIN OF THE FACTS YET AND THAT THEY COULD EITHER BE MOROCCAN REGULARS DISGUISED AS IRREGULARS, OR MOROCCAN IRREGULARS PRETENDING TO BE REGULARS. IN ANY EVENT, THE MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR WAS CALLING ON HIM THE SAME AFTERNOON AND HE ASSUMED IT WAS ABOUT THIS INCIDENT.

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8. COMMENT: IT REMAINS CLEAR THAT THE SPANISH ARE TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE SAHARA AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WHILE THEY WOULD PREFER NO CONFRONTATION AT ALL IN THE AREA, THEY OBVIOUSLY WOULD FIND IT LESS DIFFICULT IF THE MOROCCANS AND ALGERIANS CONFRONTED EACH OTHER THAN BEING IN THE MIDDLE THEMSELVES.  
STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 10 JUN 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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